

Teju Cole & Fazal Sheikh

march 18, 2020 / 6:30 p.m. / west building lecture hall

TEJU COLE, artist, curator, novelist, photography critic for *New York Times Magazine* (2015–2019), and Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of Creative Writing, Harvard University

Teju Cole was born in the United States in 1975. The son of Nigerian parents, he was raised in Lagos. He returned to the US to complete a BA at Kalamazoo College in Michigan followed by studies in art history at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London as well as at Columbia University. Cole's work examines race, gender, migration, culture, and privilege. He has contributed to publications including the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *Brick*, receiving international recognition and accolades. Cole's *Every Day is for the Thief* was named a book of the year by the *New York Times*, the *Globe and Mail*, NPR, and the *Telegraph*. His novel, *Open City*, won the PEN/Hemingway Award, the New York City Book Award for Fiction, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Internationaler Literaturpreis. His essay collection, *Known and Strange Things*, was short-listed for both the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay and the inaugural PEN/Jean Stein Book Award. Cole's photography has been featured in a number of solo exhibitions. His most recent publication is *Fernweh* (MACK, 2020), a photobook about distance and the Swiss landscape.

FAZAL SHEIKH, artist and Artist-in-Residence at the Princeton Environmental Institute, Princeton University

Born in New York City in 1965, Fazal Sheikh earned his BA from Princeton University in 1987 and has since worked as a photographer documenting the lives of individuals in displaced and marginalized communities. His principal medium is portrait photography, although his work also encompasses personal narratives, found photographs, archival material, sound, and his own written texts. Sheikh's honors include the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Infinity Award, the Leica Medal of Excellence, the Prix Dialogue de l'Humanité at the Rencontres d'Arles, the Henri Cartier-Bresson Prize, the Lucie Humanitarian Award, the Deutscher Fotobuchpreis (which he won twice), a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Kraszna-Krausz Book Award. His work is represented in the Gallery's collection by 23 photographs and one screenprint.

Upon witnessing an increase in xenophobia and authoritarian politics on a global scale, Sheikh turned to Cole for a collaboration that would reinforce their commitment to a compassionate global community and to the importance of individual courage. Through Cole's words and Sheikh's photos in the resulting book, *Human Archipelago*, we are confronted with fundamental and pressing questions of coexistence.

A signing of *Human Archipelago* follows the lecture.

THE ARNOLD NEWMAN LECTURE SERIES ON PHOTOGRAPHY provides a forum for leading photographers, primarily those known for their portraits, to discuss contemporary issues in the medium. Arnold Newman (1918–2006) is acknowledged as one of the great masters of twentieth-century photography. His work changed portraiture. The Arnold and Augusta Newman Foundation generously supports this series to make such conversations available to the public.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The West Building of the National Gallery of Art is located at Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW.

The lecture will be streamed at nga.gov/live.

Held in conjunction with *Richard Mosse: Incoming*, on view at the National Gallery of Art through March 22, 2020.